



National Park Centennial Initiative

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Listening Session:

March 15, 2007: St. Louis, Missouri, 4:00 PM –6:00 PM

Centennial Initiative: Public & partners asked to help craft vision for the next century

St. Louis, Missouri: The National Park Service will host a "listening session" on Thursday, March 15 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Historic Old Courthouse in downtown St. Louis, Missouri. The event--which is open to the public --will help NPS leadership determine the priorities that matter most to the public. Ideas from this and other public sessions, including ones that are organized locally, other public sessions being held around the country, and public comments from www.nps.gov/2016, will be used to develop a report to the President at the end of May 2007.

Midwest Regional Director Ernest Quintana and Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Superintendent Peggy O'Dell will be hosting the St. Louis listening session to solicit ideas to help identify potential signature projects and to set goals which can be achieved by the NPS Centennial in 2016.

This initiative is a priority of President George Bush, who directed Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, and National Park Service Director Mary A. Bomar, to develop the National Parks Centennial Initiative to prepare America's national park system for its Centennial in 2016. The purpose and expectations of the initiative are: Strengthening Core Park Operations, Connecting People to Parks, and Serving Communities through Signature Programs.

Key Questions being asked of the public:

- What are the signature projects and programs that you think should be highlighted for completion over the next 10 years?
- What role do you think national parks should play in the lives of Americans and for visitors from around the world?
- Think of your children and grandchildren enjoying national parks in 2016 and beyond: How do you imagine their visit? What are your hopes and expectations?

For additional information about the St. Louis Listening Session, contact: Patty Rooney 402-661-1532 or Peggy O'Dell 314-655-1600.